

U.S. Serial No. 09/781,038
Response To Notice Of Non-Compliant Amendment

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A door-latching system for a sectional door having a plurality of door panels that are moveable between an open position and a closed position, comprising:
 - a sensing member adapted to sense that the plurality of door panels have reached the open position;
 - a latch ~~member~~ assembly mountable adjacent to the sectional door and being moveable from a maintained release position to a door-blocking position ~~in response to movement of the sectional door, wherein the latch member assembly is able to remain in the maintained release position to allow~~ at least some of the plurality of door panels to travel past the latch ~~member~~ assembly, and in response to further movement of the plurality of door panels, the latch assembly subsequently moves to the door-blocking position ~~the latch member to obstructs~~ inhibits the closing movement of the plurality of door panels; and
 - a traveling member mountable to the plurality of door panels, such that the traveling member is able to ~~engage the latch assembly~~ move past the latch member without contacting the latch member as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position and such that the traveling member is able to engage the sensing member when the plurality of door panels have nearly reached the open position, wherein the traveling member engaging the sensing member causes the latch member to move ~~latch assembly mechanically moves the latch assembly~~ from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

2. Canceled.

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3. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1, wherein the latch ~~member assembly~~ in the door-blocking position obstructs downward movement of the plurality of door panels by engaging a guide roller associated with the sectional door.

4. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1, further comprising a releasing member coupled to the latch ~~member assembly~~, such that the releasing member moves the latch ~~member assembly~~ from the door-blocking position to the maintained release position upon manual manipulation of the releasing member.

5. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 4, further comprising a pliable elongated member coupled to the latch ~~member assembly~~, wherein manual manipulation of the releasing member includes manually pulling the pliable elongated member.

6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1, wherein the latch ~~assembly includes a~~ latch member that moves substantially linearly between the maintained release position and the door-blocking position.

8. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 7, wherein the latch ~~assembly includes a~~ sensing member is pivotally mounted within the latch assembly.

9. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 8, wherein the traveling member includes a pivotal arm that engages the sensing member as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position.

10. (Previously presented) The door latching system of claim 9, wherein pivotal movement of the sensing member provides the motive force for actuating the latch member to the door-blocking position.

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11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. Canceled.

14. Canceled.

15. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1, wherein the latch member and the sensing member comprise a latch assembly ~~includes a sensing member that senses the open position of the plurality of door panels, wherein the latch assembly moves between the maintained release position and the door blocking position in response to the sensing member sensing that the plurality of door panels has reached the open position.~~

16. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1 [15], wherein the sensing member is an electric switch.

17. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1 [15], wherein the sensing member is a photoelectric eye.

18. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1 [15], wherein the sensing member is a proximity switch.

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

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21. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 15 ~~7~~, further comprising a second latch assembly mountable adjacent to the sectional door, wherein the second latch assembly engages the traveling member in response to the plurality of door panels moving to the closed position, thereby inhibiting the door panels from moving to the open position.

22. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of the door panels upon moving from the closed position to the open position exerts a motive force that moves the latch member assembly from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

23. (Currently amended) A door-latching system for a sectional door having a plurality of door panels that are moveable between an open position and a closed position, comprising:

a latch assembly mountable adjacent to the sectional door and comprising a latch member and a sensing member, the latch member having a maintained release position and a door-blocking position, wherein the door-blocking position allows less downward movement of the plurality of door panels than does the maintained release position; and

a traveling member mountable to the plurality of door panels such that the traveling member is able to move past the latch member without contacting the latch member while still being able to engage the sensing member latch assembly as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position, wherein the traveling member engaging the sensing member latch assembly mechanically moves the latch member assembly from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

24. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 23, wherein the latch member assembly in the door-blocking position obstructs downward movement of the plurality of door panels by engaging a guide roller associated with the sectional door.

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25. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 23, further comprising a releasing member coupled to the latch assembly, such that the releasing member moves the latch ~~member~~ assembly from the door-blocking position to the maintained release position upon manual manipulation of the releasing member.

26. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 25, further comprising a pliable elongated member coupled to the latch assembly, wherein manual manipulation of the manual actuator includes manually pulling the pliable elongated member.

27. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 23, wherein the latch ~~assembly includes a~~ latch member that moves substantially linearly between the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

28. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 23, wherein the latch ~~assembly includes a~~ sensing member is pivotally mounted within the latch assembly, ~~wherein the latch assembly moves from the maintained release position to the door blocking position in response to the traveling member engaging the sensing member.~~

29. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim ~~23~~ 28, wherein the latch assembly includes an actuating member pivotally mounted within the latch assembly ~~and a latch member that moves between the maintained release position and the door blocking position.~~

30. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 29, wherein the sensing member is coupled to the actuating member such that engagement between the traveling member and the sensing member as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position causes the actuating member to move the latch member to the door-blocking position.

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31. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 30, wherein the actuating member is the sensing member.

32. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 28, wherein the sensing member is an actuating member for moving the latch assembly to the door-blocking position.

33. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 23, wherein the traveling member is pivotally mountable to the plurality of door panels.

34. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 23, further comprising a second latch assembly mountable adjacent to the sectional door, wherein the second latch assembly engages the traveling member in response to the plurality of door panels moving to the closed position, thereby inhibiting the door panels from moving to the open position.

35. (Currently amended) A method of operating a sectional door that includes a plurality of door panels moveable between an open position and a closed position, and a latch assembly with a latch member and a sensing member, wherein the latch member is moveable between a release position and a door-blocking position, the method comprising:

maintaining the latch member assembly at its release position such that a traveling member mounted to the plurality of door panels does not contact the latch member while the plurality of door panels move from their closed position toward their open position; and

subsequently mechanically moving the latch member assembly to its door-blocking position in response to the traveling member engaging the sensing member latch assembly as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising moving the latch ~~member assembly~~ substantially linearly between the release position and the door-block position.

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37. Canceled.

38. (Currently amended) A door-latching system for a sectional door having a plurality of door panels that are moveable between an open position and a closed position, comprising:

a sensing member adapted to sense that the plurality of door panels have reached the open position;

a latch member moveable between a maintained release position and a door-blocking position, wherein the latch member in the maintained release position allows at least some of the plurality of door panels to travel past the latch member, and in the door-blocking position the latch member inhibits the plurality of door panels from moving from the open position to the closed position;

an actuating member that moves the latch member between the maintained release position and the door-blocking position in response to the sensing member having sensed that the plurality of door panels have reached the open position; and

a traveling member mountable to the plurality of door panels, such that the traveling member is able to move past the latch member without contacting the latch member, while also being able to engage the sensing member as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position, wherein the traveling member engaging the sensing member mechanically moves the latch member from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

39. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, wherein the actuating member includes a solenoid.

40. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, wherein the actuating member is adapted to be pivotally mounted adjacent the sectional door.

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41. (Previously presented) The door latch system of claim 38, wherein the actuating member and the sensing member are adapted to be pivotally mounted adjacent the sectional door at a common pivot point.

42. (Previously presented) The door latch system of claim 38, wherein the latch member moves linearly between the maintained release position and the door-blocking position.

43. (Previously presented) The door latch system of claim 38, wherein the sensing member is an electric switch.

44. (Previously presented) The door latch system of claim 38, wherein the sensing member is a photoelectric eye.

45. (Previously presented) The door latch system of claim 38, wherein the sensing member is a proximity switch.

46. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, wherein the traveling member is able to engage the sensing member as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position, wherein the traveling member engaging the sensing member triggers movement of the latch member from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

47. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, wherein the latch member in the door-blocking position obstructs downward movement of the plurality of door panels by engaging a guide roller associated with the section door.

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48. (Currently amended) The door-latching system of claim 38, further comprising a releasing member coupled to the latch member, such that the releasing member[s] moves the latch member from the door-blocking position to the maintained release position upon manual manipulation of the releasing member.

49. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 48, further comprising a pliable elongated member coupled to the latch member, wherein manual manipulation of the releasing member includes manually pulling the pliable elongated member.

50. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, wherein the latch member moves from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position in response to movement of the sensing member.

51. Canceled.

52. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 50, wherein the sensing member is the actuating member.

53. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, further comprising a second latch assembly mountable adjacent to the sectional door, wherein the second latch assembly engages the traveling member in response to the plurality of door panels moving to the closed position, thereby inhibiting the door panels from moving to the open position.

54. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 38, wherein the plurality of the door panels upon moving from the closed position to the open position exerts a motive force that moves the latch member from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position.

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55. (Previously presented) The door-latching system of claim 54, wherein the actuating member transmits the motive force from the door panels to the latch member.

56. (Currently amended) A method of operating a sectional door that includes a plurality of door panels moveable between an open position and a closed position, and a latch assembly that includes a latch member and a sensing member, wherein the latch member is moveable between a maintained release position and a door-blocking position, the method comprising:

maintaining the latch member in a retracted position such that a traveling member can move past the latch member without contact with it as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position;

sensing that the plurality of door panels have reached the open position in response to the traveling member engaging the sensing member ~~latch assembly~~ as the plurality of door panels move from the closed position to the open position;

mechanically actuating the latch member assembly such that the latch member assembly mechanically moves from the maintained release position to the door-blocking position upon sensing that the plurality of door panels have reached the open position; and

latching the sectional door upon actuating the latch member assembly, whereby the latch member assembly inhibits the plurality of door panels from moving from the open position to the closed position.

57. Canceled.

58. Canceled.

59. Canceled.

60. Canceled.

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61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the step of latching, the latch ~~member assembly~~ engages a guide roller associated with the sectional door.

62. (Currently amended) The method of claim 56, further comprising releasing the sectional door after the step of latching the sectional door, whereby the plurality of door panels are subsequently allowed to move from the open position to the closed position.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim 56, wherein movement of the plurality of door panels from the closed position to the open position provides a motive force for actuating the latch ~~member assembly~~.

64. Canceled.